

BRITAIN'S GREATEST HERO!



# JACK STAFF



6  
AUG

£1.80  
\$2.95 US



## IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

# FLAG WAVING

Kane 31 is the final issue of the comic series.

As I'm sure you will appreciate, having worked on Kane since 1993, this has not been an easy decision to take.

The main reason for the decision is the continuing low sales. Kane has never been a high selling comic - advance orders have never gone above 2000 - and it's very hard to justify continuing to work on a comic which doesn't bring in enough money to cover the studio rent.

I have tried a few things to try and bump up the readership, but to little effect. I had thought that Jack Staff would bring in new readers, and whilst there is a renewed interest in the book collections, which continue to sell well, that hasn't been reflected in the sales of the single issues.

The good news is that I **will** be continuing with Kane, but instead of being released as a bimonthly(ish) comic, there will be a Kane book (containing all new material) published every 12 - 18 months.

Hopefully, by combining the readership of the comics and the book collections I should be in a much stronger position to be able to continue the story.

Jack Staff will continue as an ongoing series - sales are stronger than those of Kane, and continue to build.

Thank you to all of you who have supported Kane over the years, and I hope I can continue to count on your readership in the years to come!

Paul Grist - September 2001



+++ STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL +++ STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL +++

1962

IN ORDER TO COMBAT THE GROWING NUMBER OF SO-CALLED  
**SUPER CROOKS** ACTIVE IN BRITAIN, THE GOVERNMENT  
FORMS A SPECIALIST UNIT DEDICATED TO CATCHING THOSE  
CRIMINALS BEYOND THE REACH OF THE REGULAR POLICE FORCE.

# UNIT 17



I'M GOING  
TO TAKE THE  
GREEN CAT  
FOR A WALK!  
THE SPIDER

NOTE RECEIVED FROM  
CRIMINAL MASTER  
THIEF THE SPIDER.



THE EMERALD  
CAT. PRICELESS  
MUSEUM EXHIBIT.

WHILST  
I AM  
**HAPPY**  
TO ASSIST  
YOUR TEAM  
COMMANDER  
...

CAN  
YOU  
**GUARANTEE**  
THE SAFETY  
OF THE  
**EMERALD  
CAT?**

I  
UNDERSTAND  
THIS **SPIDER**  
FELLOW CAN  
BE QUITE  
DETERMINED.

I CAN  
BE QUITE  
DETERMINED  
**MYSELF**  
SIR.

SECURITY  
CAMERAS  
WILL BE  
CONSTANTLY  
WATCHING  
YOUR  
**EMERALD  
CAT.**



OLIVER SMITH-JONES  
MUSEUM CURATOR.



COMMANDER HAWKES

I  
DON'T  
GET  
IT  
...

THERE  
WASN'T  
**ANYTHING**  
ON THE  
SCREENS!

THINKS  
HE'S  
**SMARTER**  
THAN US  
PEGGY.

THIS  
TIME HE'S  
CAUGHT  
IN **OUR**  
**WEB!**

THE STATUE  
WILL BE HELD  
IN A ROOM WITH  
A SINGLE DOOR  
IN OR OUT. A **POLICE**  
**GUARD** WILL BE  
OUTSIDE AT  
ALL TIMES.



UNIT D LEADER.

WHERE'S  
THE  
GUARD?

ON A  
**CHARGE**  
WHEN I  
FIND 'IM!

HORTON!  
OPEN THE  
DOOR!

THE DOOR  
TO THE ROOM  
CAN ONLY BE  
OPENED FROM  
OUTSIDE BY  
BY USING A  
**SECRET FOUR  
DIGIT CODE**



CLIVE HORTON  
INTELLIGENCE

I CAN'T  
DO IT  
SIR!

SOME  
ONE'S  
**CHANGED**  
THE CODE  
NUMBER!

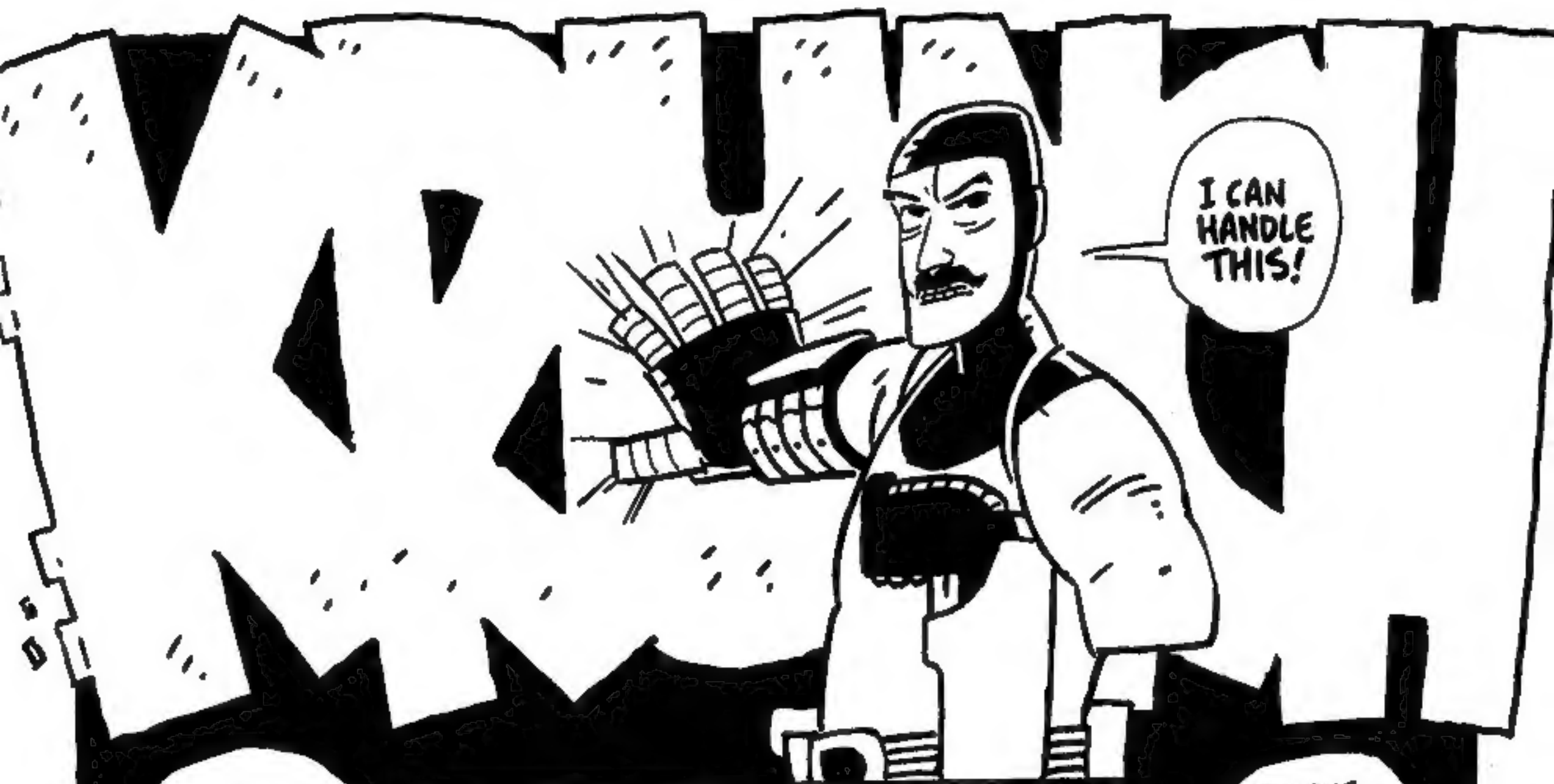
ONE  
SIDE  
LAD.

THE DOOR  
WILL BE SPECIALLY  
REINFORCED  
TO WITHSTAND  
ANYTHING SHORT  
OF A **TANK  
SHELL!**



PEGGY JAMES  
SURVEILLANCE SYSTEMS





I CAN  
HANDLE  
THIS!

CROSSING  
THE NETWORK  
OF LASER BEAMS  
INSIDE THE ROOM  
WILL TRIGGER THE  
AUTOMATIC  
RELEASE OF  
TEAR GAS.



**SANDRA LEE**  
WEAPONS EXPERT

GAS  
MASKS  
ON!



ANYONE  
WHO TRIES TO  
REMOVE THE  
ARTIFACT WILL  
BE SPRAYED  
WITH A FAST  
DRYING  
GLOOP!



**RUSSELL CARTHY**  
SCIENTIFIC GENIUS

OVER  
HERE  
COMMA-  
NDER!

THE  
TRAP'S  
SPRUNG!



THEN THE  
POD SNAPS  
UP- SEALING  
OUR WOULD BE  
THIEF IN A  
METAL  
COCOON



**TERRY STRINGER**  
UNARMED COMBAT

OPEN  
'ER UP  
STRINGER  
LET'S SEE  
WHAT WE'VE  
CAUGHT!



WELL  
COMMANDER  
HAWKES  
...

IT'S A  
RELIEF TO  
KNOW THAT  
THE **EMERALD  
CAT** IS SAFE  
IN YOUR  
HANDS.

WHAT?

WHO  
THE  
**BLAZES**  
ARE  
YOU?

POLICE  
CONSTABLE  
**MAVERYK**  
=koff=  
SIR..

..THE  
GUARD  
..

=koff=

SIR!  
THE  
**EMERALD  
CAT**--  
IT'S  
...

DON'T  
SAY IT  
CARTHY,  
JUST  
**DON'T**  
SAY IT.

HERE'S  
TO NEXT  
TIME!  
THE SPIDER

AS SAFE  
AS THE  
**BANK OF  
ENGLAND.**

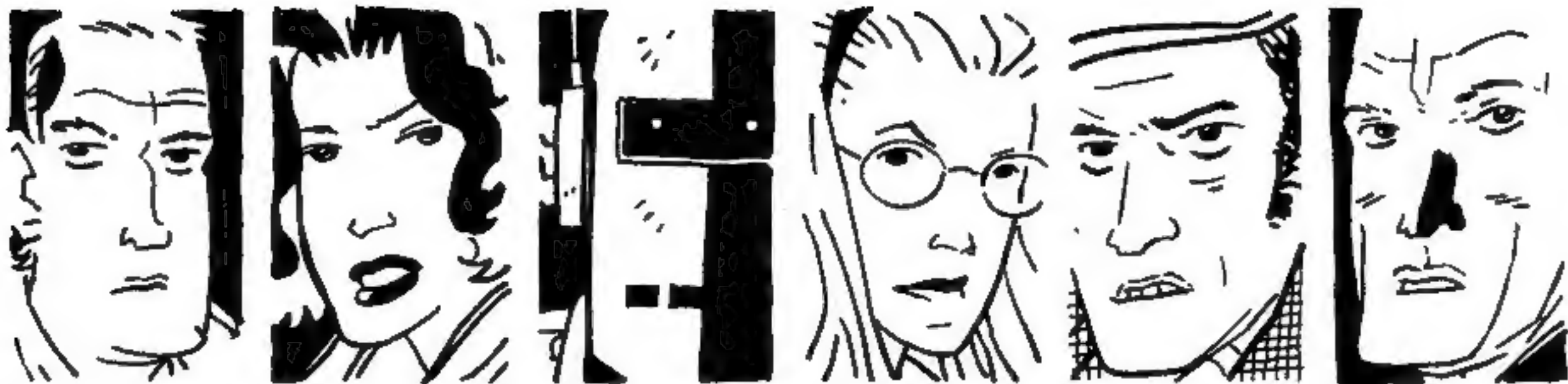
# POST SCRIPT

UNIT D WAS CLOSED DOWN IN 1986  
FOLLOWING THE **BANK OF ENGLAND**  
**BULLION RAID.**

THE CRIMINAL MASTER THIEF KNOWN AS **THE  
SPIDER** WAS NEVER APPREHENDED.





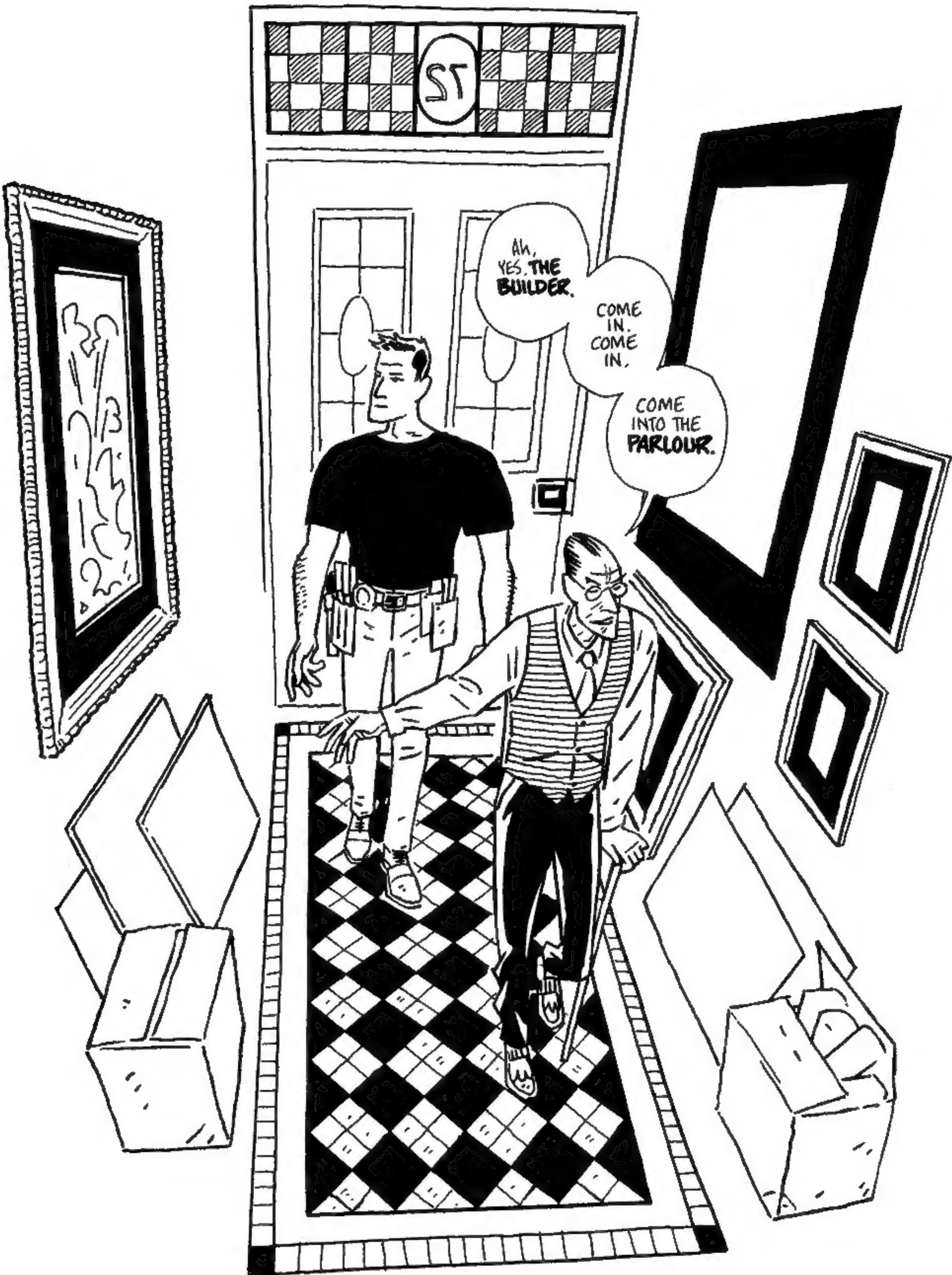


CONTINUING THE ADVENTURES OF  
**BRITAIN'S GREATEST HERO!**

BY THAT JACK OF ALL TRADES  
**PAUL GRIST**



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NICE HOUSE YOU GOT HERE MISTER WH

CHINARD. ALFRED CHINARD. BUT FOLK'S JUST CALL ME FRED.



EXCUSE THE MESS. IT'S JUST FINDING A PLACE TO PUT EVERY THING.

I HAD A **BREAK** IN ABOUT A FORTNIGHT AGO NOW.

THOUGHT I'D SEEN THE LITTLE BUGGER OFF.

heh heh.

IT WAS **TEN DAYS** BEFORE I REALISED ANYTHING WAS MISSING.



YOU SHOULD TAKE MORE CARE OF THINGS THOUGH.



I'M NO EXPERT ...

BUT SOME OF THESE PIECES LOOK **VALUABLE**.



I HAVE MADE A **SMALL COLLECTION** OVER THE YEARS.

A HOBBY.

BUT YOU'RE RIGHT.

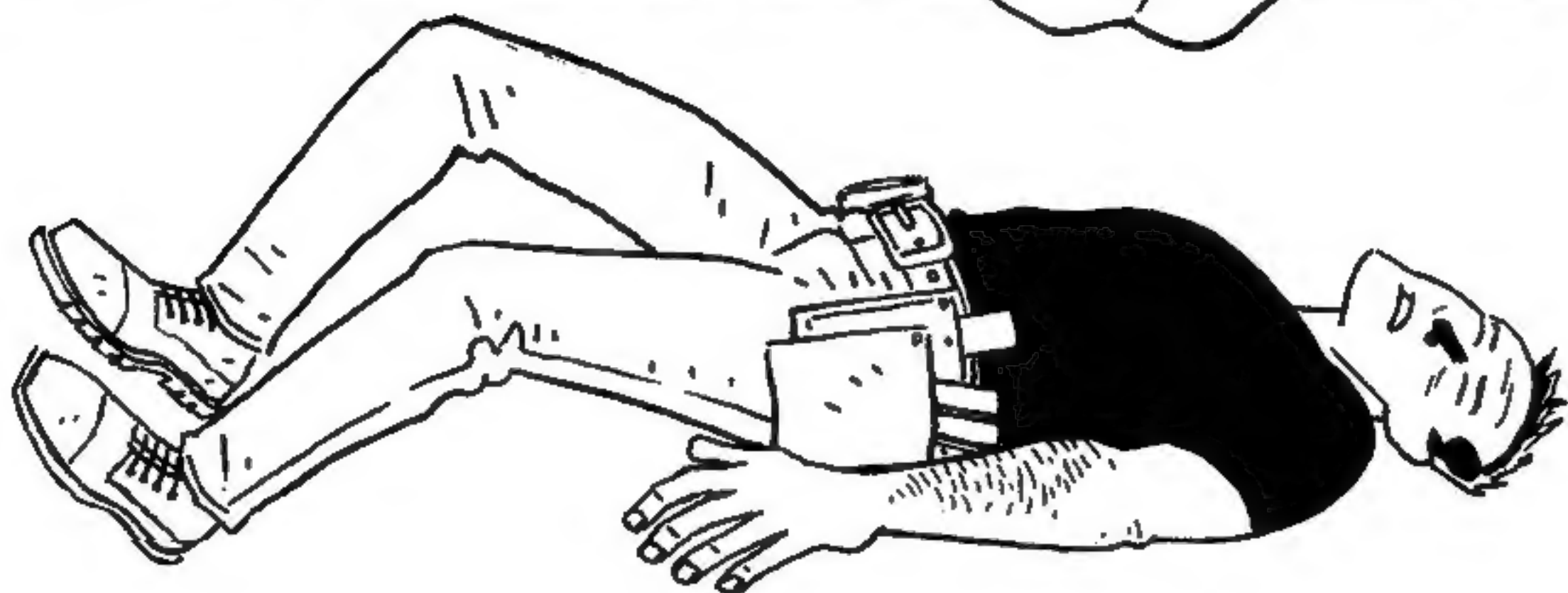


I **SHOULD** TAKE CARE OF THINGS.



I THOUGHT MAYBE YOU COULD **HELP**.

AFTER YOU **JOHN SMITH**.





I THOUGHT I'D SEEN  
SOME **CRAZY STUFF**  
IN MY TIME.

I'VE NOT SEEN  
**ANYTHING.**

I'M **HARRY CRANE.**

SHE'S **HELEN MORGAN.**

WE BOTH USED TO WORK  
FOR **Q.** WE INVESTIGATED  
THINGS WHICH COULDN'T BE  
EXPLAINED.

**QUESTION MARK CRIMES.**

I SAY **USED TO.**

**I QUIT.**

NOW  
WOULD  
BE A GOOD  
TIME TO  
SAY SOME  
THING  
HARRY.

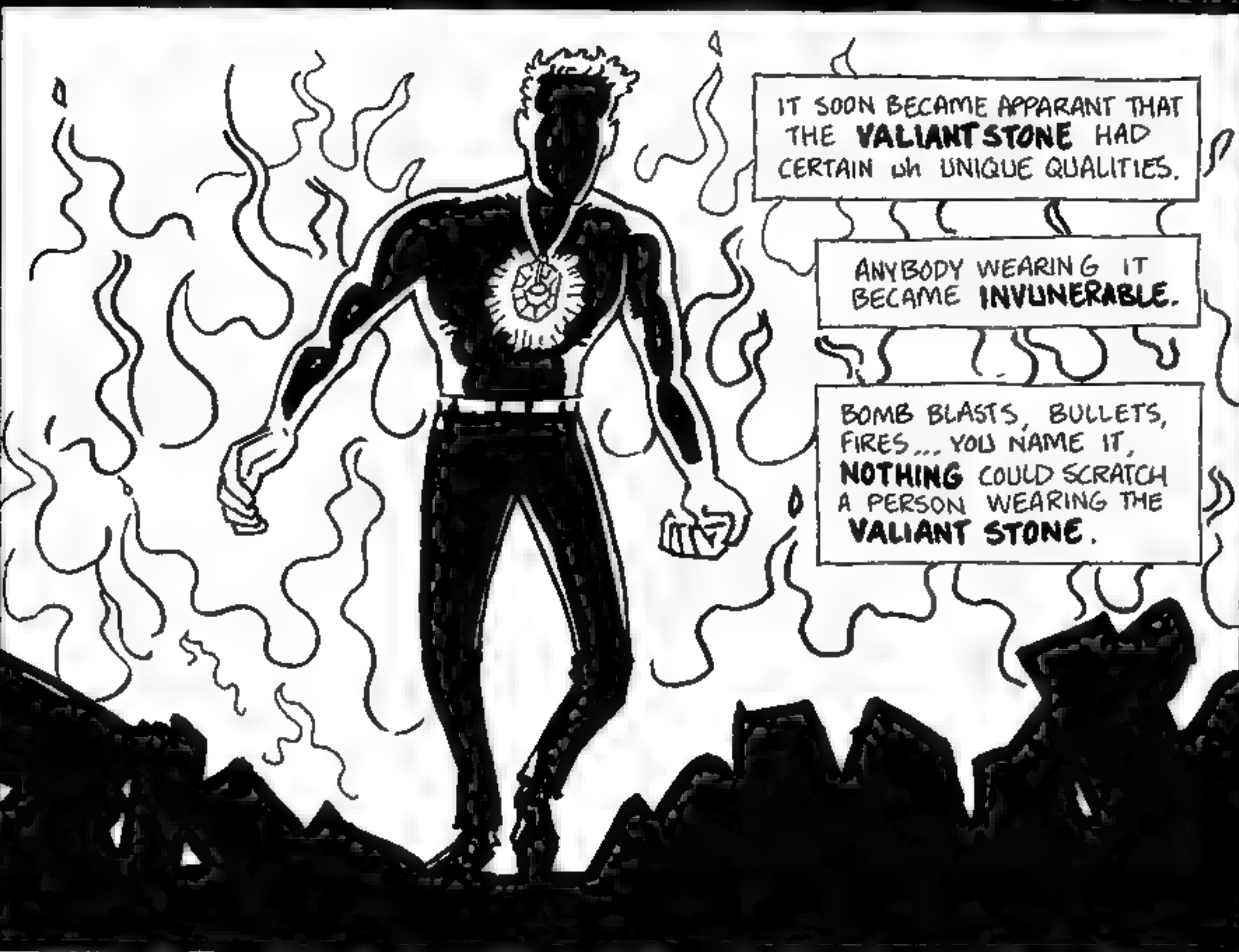
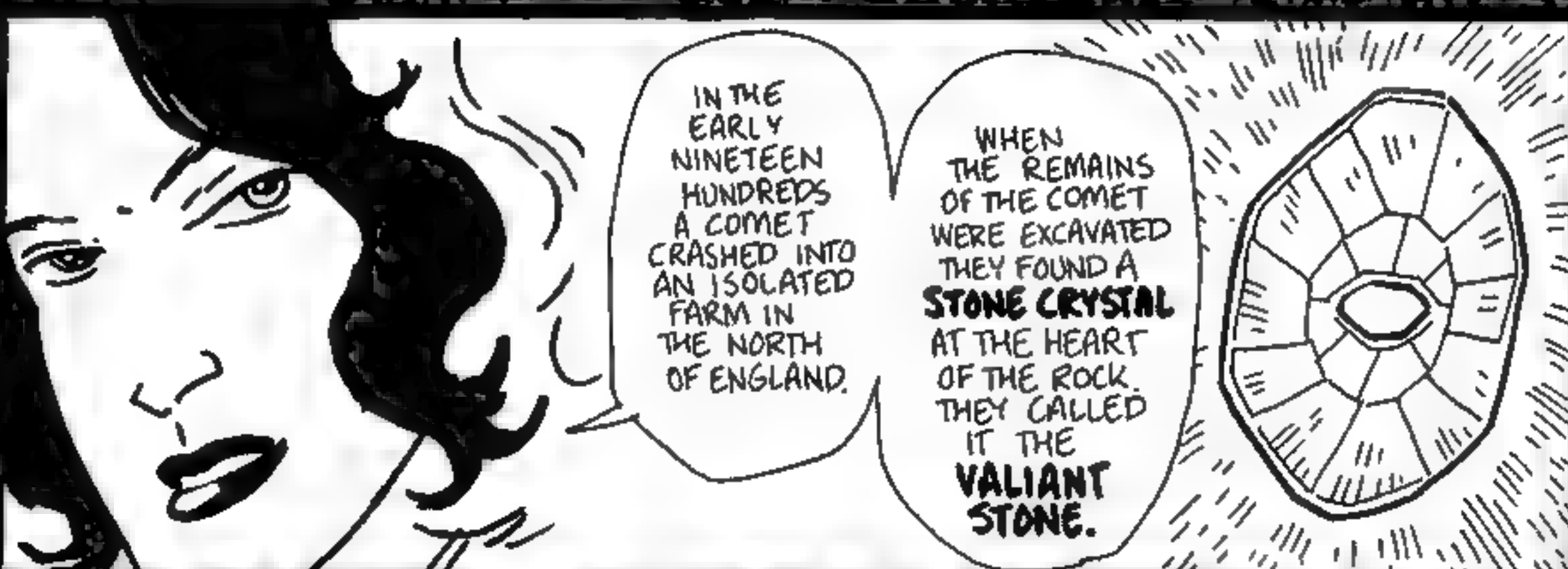
# QUICK AND THE DEAD

HELEN MORGAN  
WAS **KILLED.**

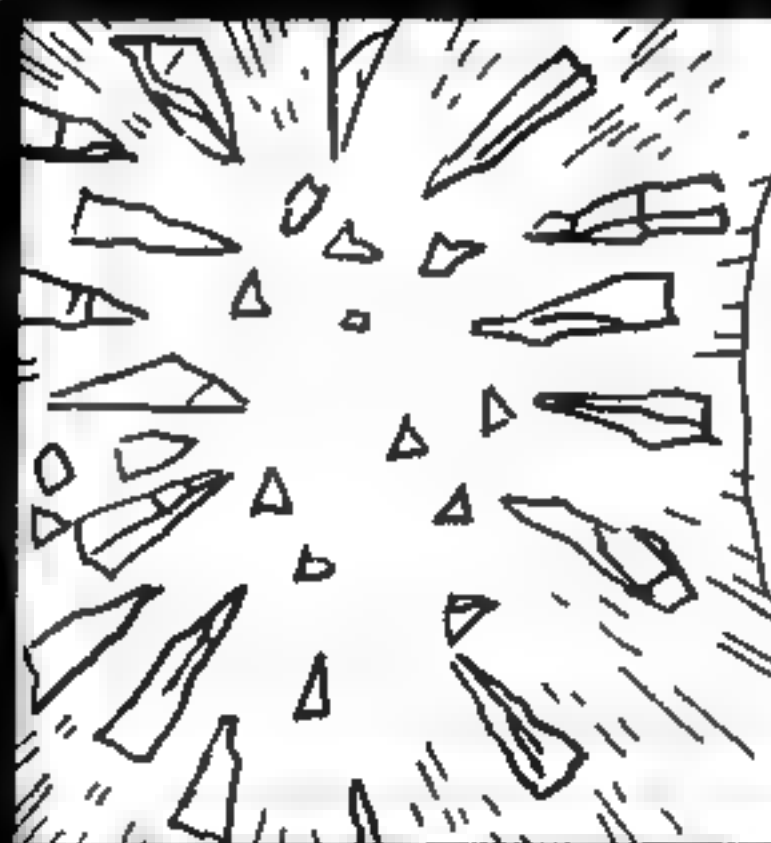
SOME  
THING LIKE  
**'YOU'RE DEAD  
AREN'T YOU?'**  
USUALLY  
WORKS.

WHAT CAN YOU  
SAY TO MAKE  
THINGS SOUND  
**NORMAL**  
WHEN YOU KNOW  
THEY NEVER WILL  
BE AGAIN?

TEA?







UNFORTUNATELY,  
JUST BECAUSE  
THE WEARER WAS  
INDESTRUCTABLE,  
DIDN'T MEAN  
THAT THE  
**VALIANT  
STONE**  
ITSELF WAS.

THE  
STONE WAS  
**SHATTERED**  
INTO A  
HUNDRED  
DIFFERENT  
PIECES.



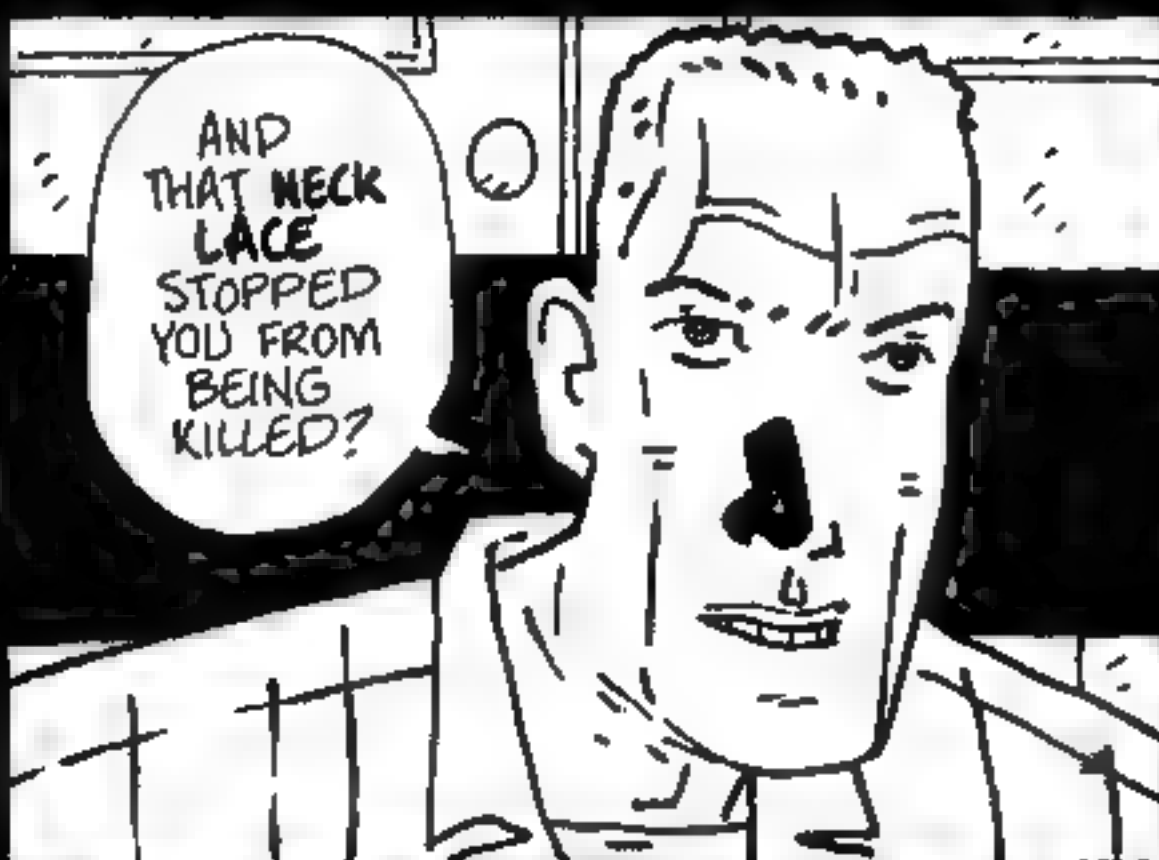
I'LL  
BUY  
THAT.

I'VE  
SEEN  
CRAZIER

BUT  
WHAT'S  
THAT GOT  
TO DO WITH  
YOUR STILL  
BEING  
**ALIVE?**



THIS.  
THIS SHARD  
IS A PIECE  
OF THE  
ORIGINAL  
**VALIANT  
STONE.**



AND  
THAT NECK  
**LACE**  
STOPPED  
YOU FROM  
BEING  
KILLED?



NO. I  
DIED.

AND  
Q BROUGHT  
ME BACK  
TO LIFE.



AGAIN.





SO HARRY.

DO YOU STILL THINK THAT Q'LL JUST LET YOU GO?



I DON'T KNOW HELEN.

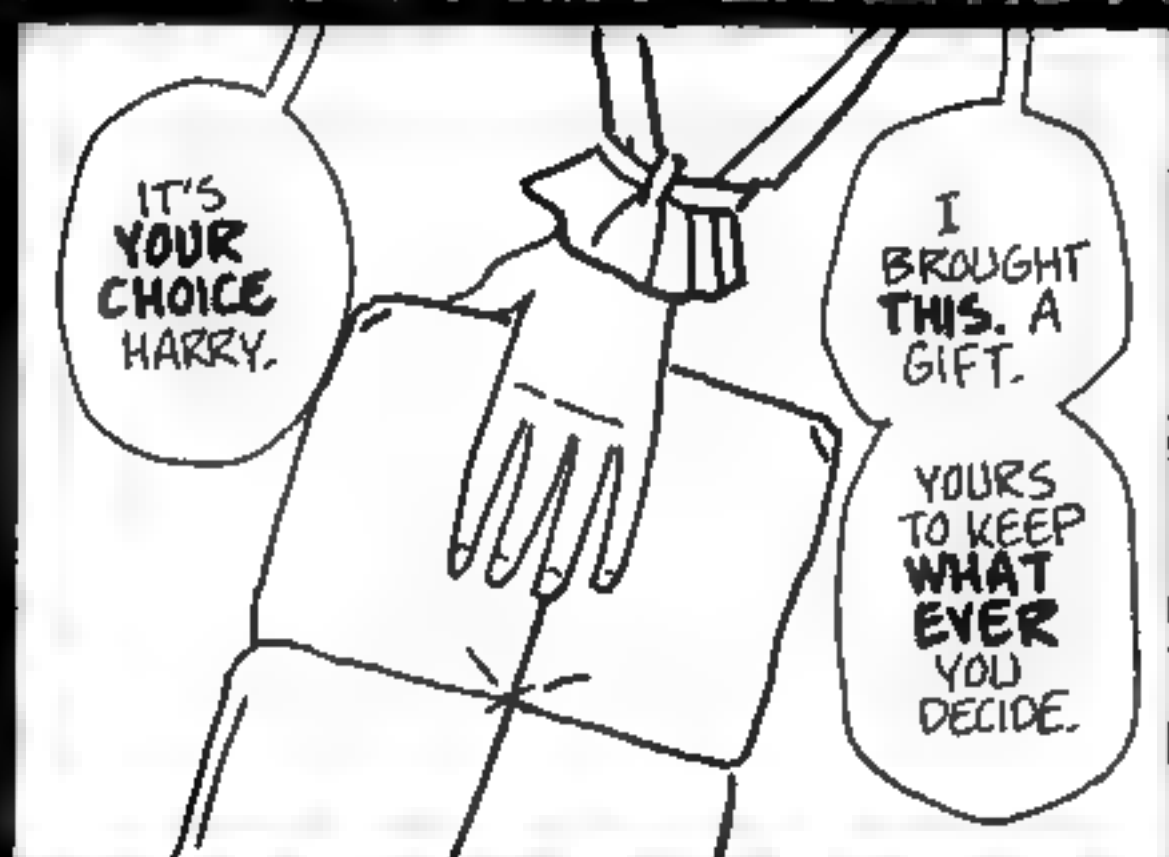
BUT I DON'T KNOW HOW MUCH MORE **CRAZY STUFF** I CAN TAKE.

I NEED A BREAK.



AND Q NEEDS YOU.

THEY'RE HARD TO SAY **'NO'** TO.



IT'S YOUR CHOICE HARRY.

I BROUGHT THIS. A GIFT.

YOURS TO KEEP **WHAT EVER** YOU DECIDE.



I'LL SEE MYSELF OUT.

GOOD NIGHT.



MY TEA IS **LONG COLD** BY THE TIME I COME TO MY DECISION.



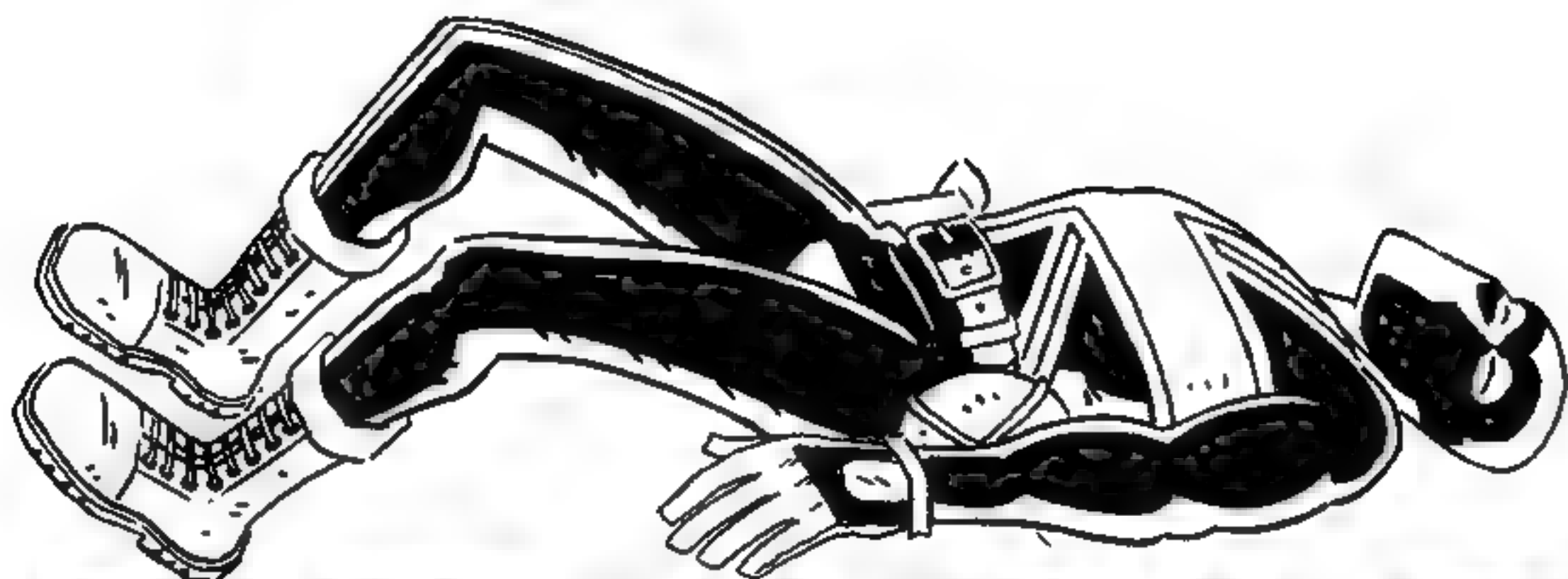
BUT IN THE END...

I CAN'T HELP WONDERING ...



DID I **EVER** HAVE A CHOICE?





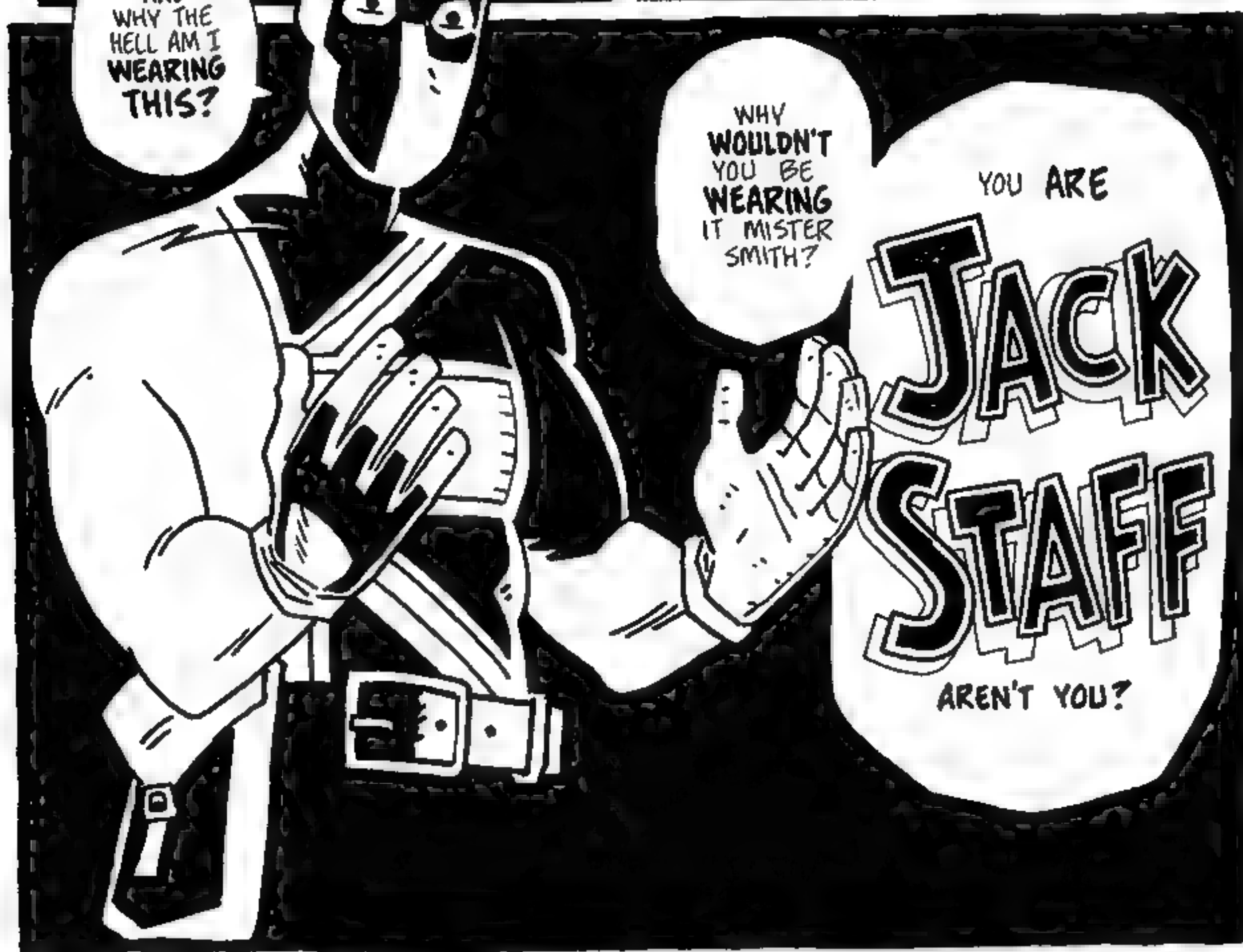
00000



...WHAT  
HAPPENED  
...



-- WHERE  
AM I  
--



-- AND  
WHY THE  
HELL AM I  
WEARING  
THIS?

WHY  
WOULDN'T  
YOU BE  
WEARING  
IT MISTER  
SMITH?

YOU ARE

**JACK  
STAFF**

AREN'T YOU?

THE  
COSTUME'S  
ONE OF  
YOURS.  
BY THE  
WAY.

I  
LIBERATED  
IT AT THE  
END OF THAT  
STOCKSBRIDGE  
BUSINESS  
BACK IN  
SIXTY EIGHT.

THOUGHT  
IT MIGHT  
COME IN  
ONE  
DAY.

STILL  
FITS  
WHERE IT  
TOUCHES  
I SEE.

I KEEP  
IN SHAPE.



SO  
WHERE'S  
THE  
STAFF  
?

OVER  
HERE,  
JACK!

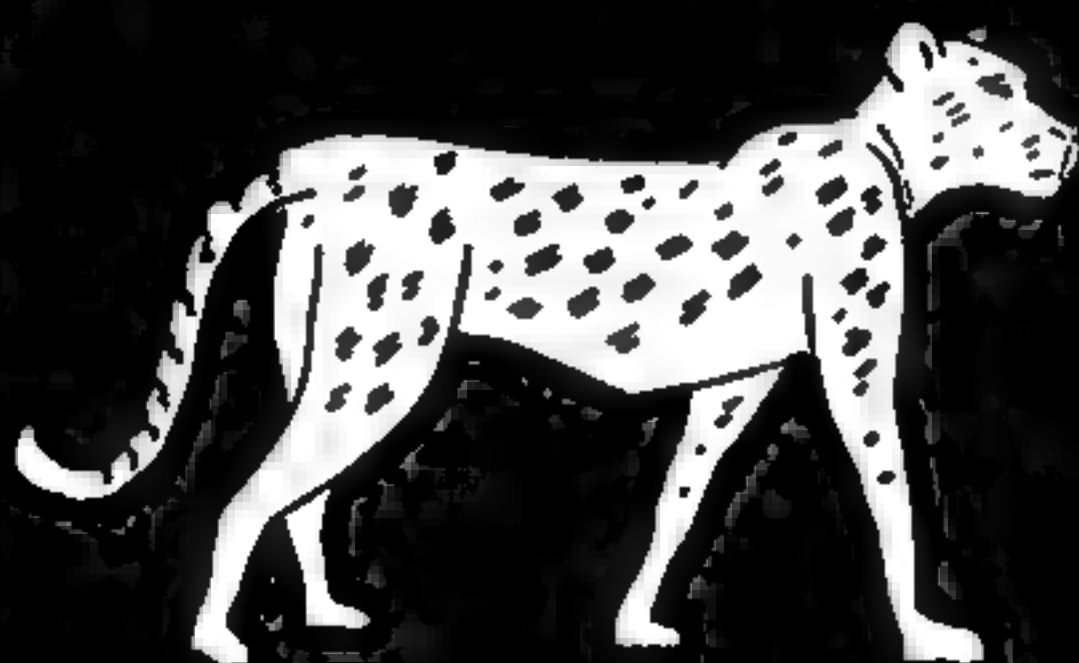
ALL  
YOU  
HAVE  
TO DO  
IS GET  
IT.

SORRY.

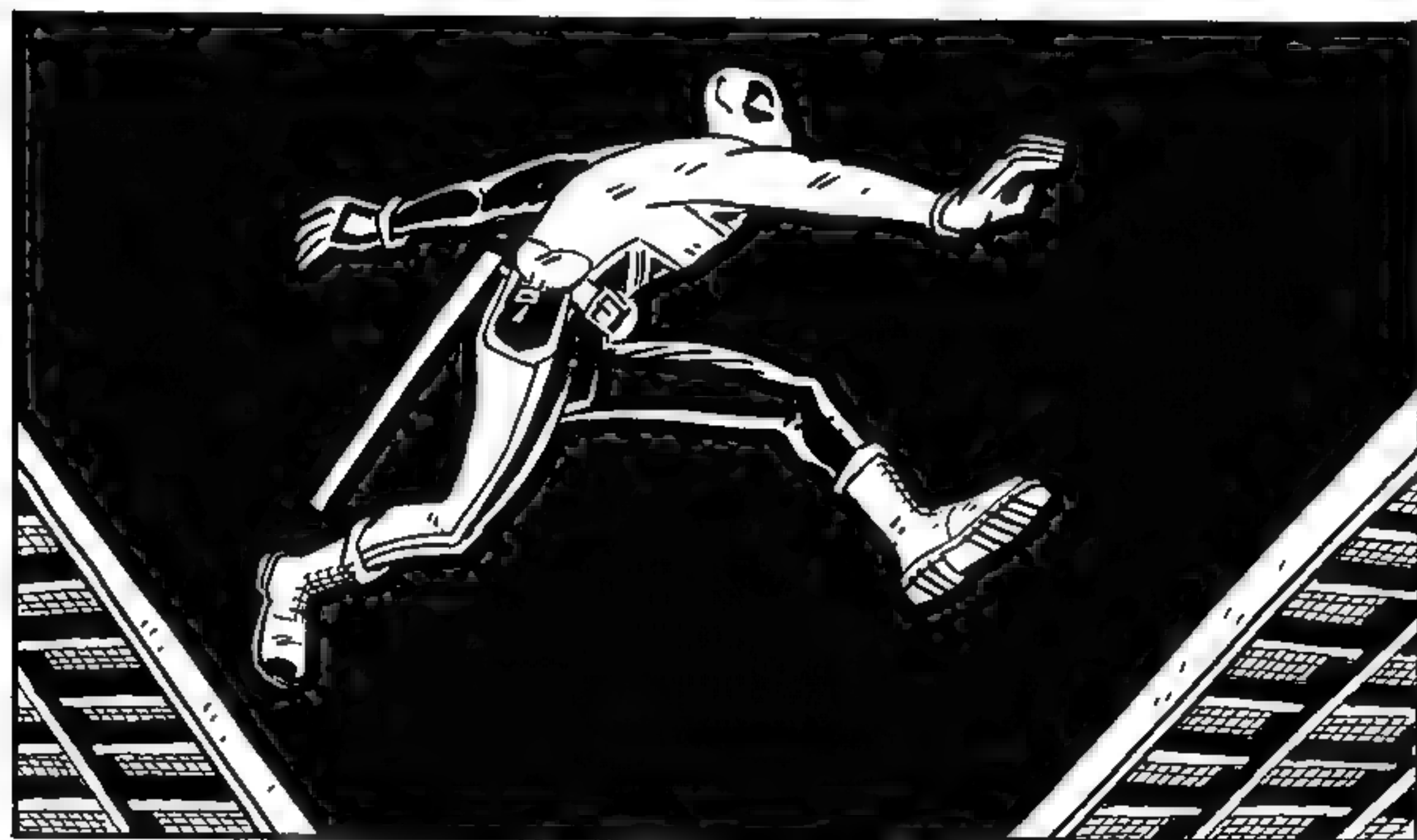
I DON'T  
KNOW WHAT  
YOUR GAME  
IS, BUT I'M  
NOT  
PLAYING.

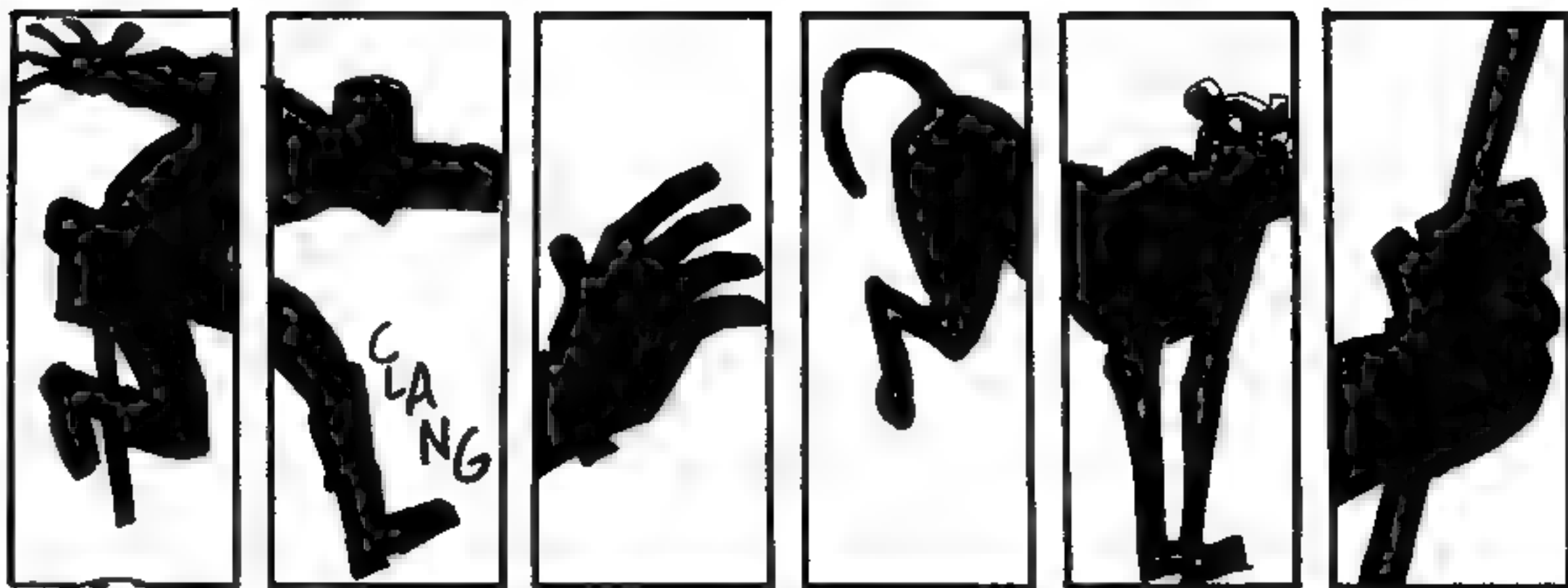
Ah! I  
THOUGHT  
YOU MIGHT  
NEED A  
LITTLE  
INCENTIVE.

INCENTIVE?











A veggieburger with  
extra tomato ketchup  
from the local takeaway.

This wasn't how it was  
supposed to be.

I read my HOROSCOPE  
in the paper today.

FANG  
KEW  
MISS!

STILL  
NOT  
FUNNY  
BRIAN.

'Today is your LUCKY  
DAY. You will meet  
the MAN of your DREAMS,  
but be ready for some  
LIFE CHANGES.'

Take my advice -  
Don't believe every-thing  
you read in the paper.

Trust me.

I'm a REPORTER.

BECKY BURDOCK  
VAMPIRE REPORTER



I used to think I'd met creeps in my life.







As we walk along, a strange feeling starts to wash over me.

I feel myself start to relax.

A voice inside my head says I should learn to trust more.

It's a calming voice.  
A reassuring voice.



A voice you can trust







WHAT?

A  
COMPUTER  
GENERATED  
HOLOGRAM.

IT'S  
**AMAZING**  
WHAT THEY  
CAN DO  
NOWADAYS  
ISN'T IT.  
hmm?

IT  
WASN'T  
REAL.

IT  
NEVER  
WAS.

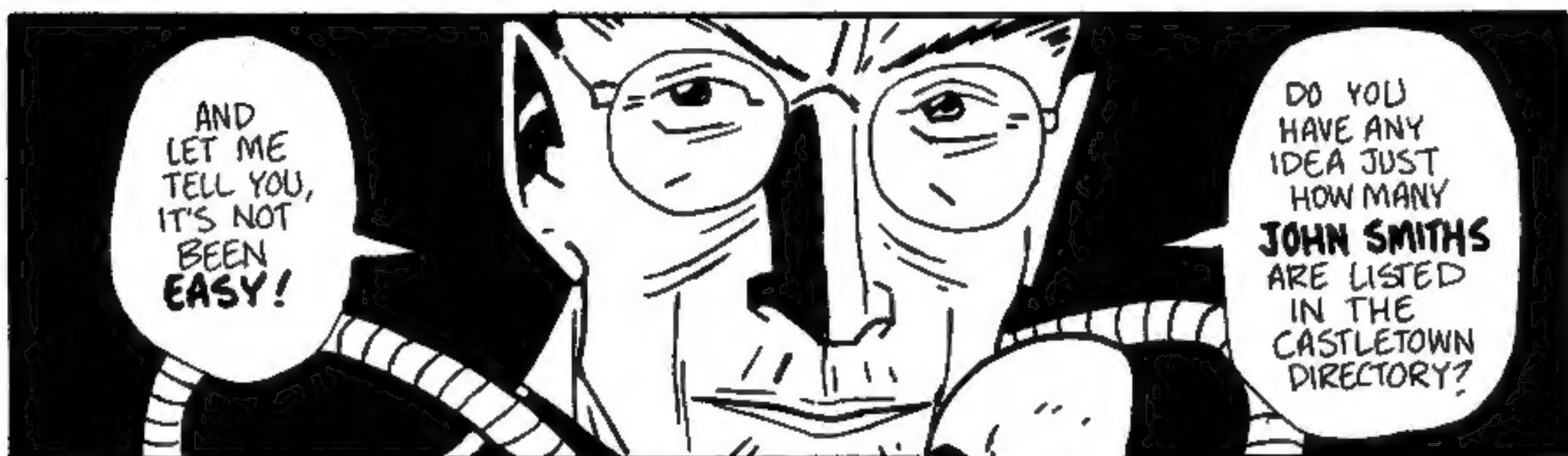
BUT YOU  
REALLY  
ARE

**JACK  
STAFF**

AREN'T  
YOU?  
hmm?











# STAFF POST

DANCING ELEPHANT PRESS  
P.O. BOX 2362, WELLS, BA5 1YQ, ENGLAND  
e-mail: danceleph@aol.com

## ORIGINAL ART FOR SALE!

*I'm still selling the original pages from Jack Staff. Single pages are available at £50 UK, \$85 US each. Colour pages and covers are not yet available. Please list alternatives in case your first choice has already gone (or contact me via e-mail if you want to check and/or reserve a page). As always, please make all cheques/postal orders payable to Paul Grist.*

## NEXT ISSUE

*Becky Burdock takes on the Hounds of Hell - and only one can save her (hint, it's not Britain's Greatest Hero!) All this and more in Jack Staff 7!*

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NO, I  
DIED.

AND  
Q BROUGHT  
ME BACK  
TO LIFE.



AGAIN.